RELOCATION PROGRAM

Moving Made Easy

What Mobile Military Families Want You to Know

Joy Dunlap & Katie Savant

MOAA Military Officers Association of America

NATIONAL MILITARY FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Together we're stronger

12th Annual Joint Services/Agency/ERC Relocation Training Conference

National Military Family Association

- National nonprofit started in 1969
- Serving families of all ranks, branches and components of the seven uniformed services
- Operation Purple® Camps
- Military Spouse Scholarships
- Military Family Award
- Free Educational Resources

www.MilitaryFamily.org

Military Families Share

National Military Family Association/RAND Study

Understanding Deployment & Kids

- **Largest study of cross services and families to date**
- ***Children on the Homefront: The Experience of Children from Military Families,* published in Journal of Pediatrics; http://pediatrics.aapublications/org/**
- **Addressed Two Key Questions**
  - How are school-age military children faring?
  - What type of issues do military children face related to deployment?

Military Families Share

Relocation Survey

Most important in neighborhood choice:

- **90% ability to cover most housing costs w/ BAH**
- **80% access to medical facilities**
- **96% community amenities**
- **90% education for children & adults**
- **95% employment opportunities**
- **100% safety & security**

Military Families Share

Relocation Survey

Most likely to:

- **Seek employment before relocating**
- **House-hunt prior to a move**
- **Web research**

Military Families Share

Relocation Survey

Preferences:

- **40% would prefer to purchase a home**
- **40% would prefer to live in military housing (government or privatized)**
- **70% are concerned about temporary housing**

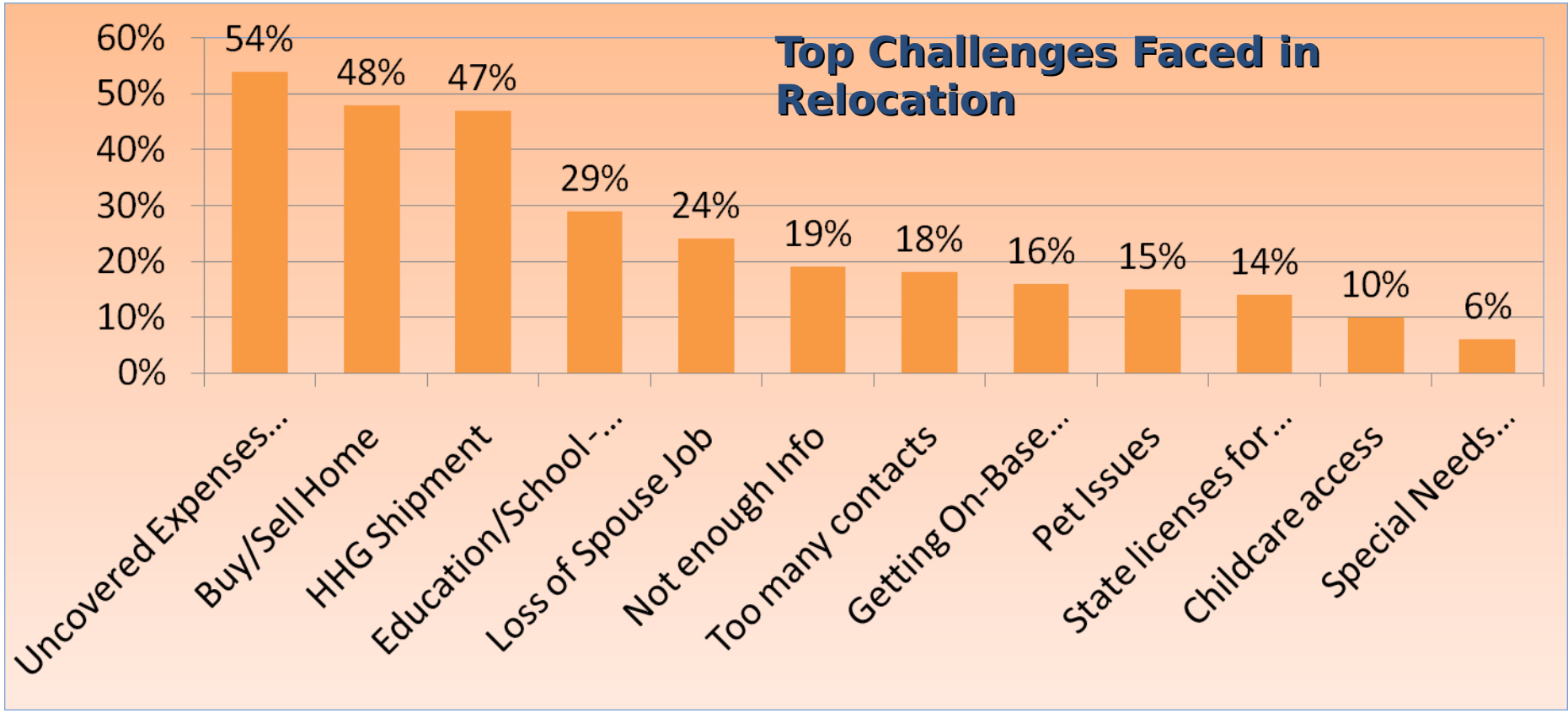
Challenges

- **Multiple touch-points for relocation**
  - Housing Office, Finance, Relocation Manager, TMO
- **Inaccurate/dated website information**
- **POC contact information is limited (no email addresses)**

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)

- **375,000 members**; 416 chapters; 80 years
- **$9.2 million- scholarships/no-interest loans -** 1650 children (***enlisted, officer, AD, G/R, retired)***
- **Career Center:** Job Fairs, Seminars
- **Professional Symposia:** Wounded Warrior, Spouse, Issue-based
- **Info Resource:** E-letters, Books, Blogs
- **Contests:** Essay/Photo
- **Advocacy:** All Servicemembers & their Families

MOAA Quick Poll - May 2010



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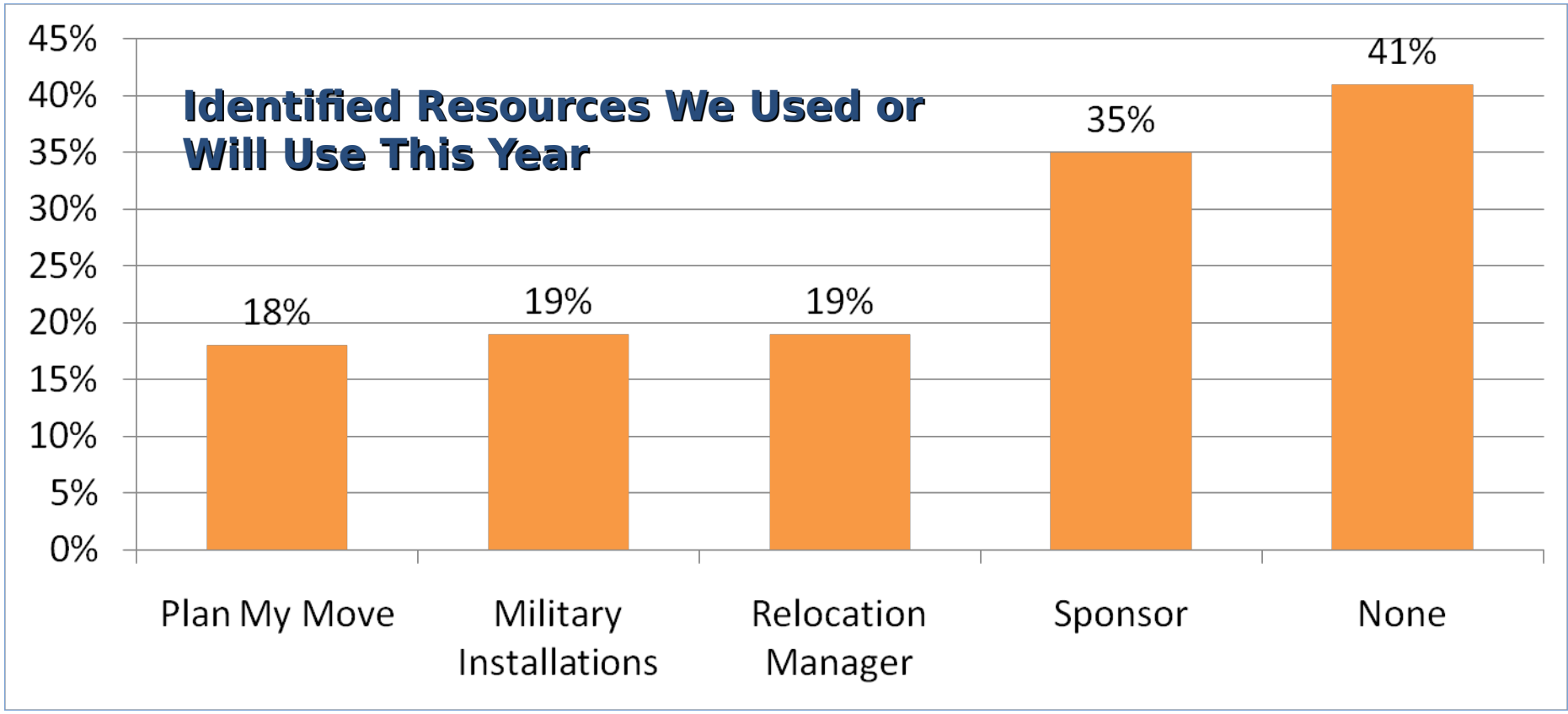

Initiatives to Help Families

- **500-lb. pro gear allowance for military spouses**
  - **Includes: reference material, tools, specialized clothing, etc.**
  - **Excludes: commercial products for sale/resale, etc.**
  - **Many still don't know about it**
- **Career Advancement Accounts**
  - **136,000+ in system for $6000 grants**
  - **Program under review for new applicants**

Initiatives to Help Families

- **House Purchase Tax Credit**
  - **Members who serve overseas for at least 90 days (Dec 31, '08-May 31,'10) *eligible for one-year extension for $8,000 housing tax credit***
  - **Need to sign contract by April 30, *2011***
  - **Home - less than $800,000**
  - **Income couple cap - $225,000**

Initiatives to Help Families

- **Military Spouse Residency Relief Act**
  - **Spouse can maintain domicile for voting & tax purposes**
  - **Check with JAGs, accountants, state revenue offices before acting**
  - **Not all employers will withhold for another state; spouses may have to personally file quarterly**

Initiatives to Help Families

- **Military Spouse Non-Competitive Hiring Authority**
  - **Eligible up to 2 years from PCS; or from verification of 100% disability, or AD death of SM**
  - **www.usajobs.gov**

- **Military Spouse Fed Gov't Intern Program**
  - **DoD to reimburse federal agencies for 1st year salary, benefits & training for 120 positions**
  - **www.cpms.osd.mil/MilSpouseinternship.aspx**

Initiatives to Help Families

- **Family & Medical Leave Act - Military Deployment Provision**
  - **Unpaid leave to support deployment**
    - **Up to 12 weeks from Private Sector Employer (50 employees or more) or Federal Government**
  - **Spouse, Children, Parents**
  - **What counts?**
    - **Military Ceremonies, Support Briefings, etc.**
    - **Financial and Legal Arrangements**
    - **Counseling: self, military member, children**
    - **Short-term R&R support: up to 5 days**
    - **Post-deployment activities, etc.**

Proposed Initiatives

- **Military Spouses Employment Act**
  - **Tax incentive for businesses to hire military spouses**
  - **Spouses of Active Duty as well as NG & Reserve w/SM activated 90 days**
  - **Would allow employers to claim tax credit of 40% for first $6,000 in wages for qualified spouses on payroll at least 400 hrs (25% for 120-399 hrs)**
  - **HR 4764 & S3232**

Proposed Initiatives

- **Military Spouse Job Continuity Act of 2010**
  - **Income tax credit against amounts paid for a new State license or certification due to PCS move to another state**
  - **Up to $500**
  - **H.R. 4693**

Proposed Initiatives

- **Servicemembers Permanent Change of Station Relief Act**
  - **Would Increase Servicemember's PCS Mileage Rate to Same as TDY Rate**
  - **Authorize paid 2nd Vehicle Shipment to Alaska, Hawaii, Guam**

State Initiatives to Help Families

- **Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children**
  - Enrollment, eligibility, placement, graduation
  - **31 states – 84%** of military children
    - ***2010 – NJ, NM, SD, UT, WI; IL with Governor***
    - **2009 – AL, AK, CA, IA, IN, MS, MD, NV*, TX, VA, WA**
      - ***Nevada not effective until 2011**
      - **GA & AR – passed alternate; NOT in Compact**
    - **2008-AZ,CO,CT,DE,FL,KS,KY,MI,MO,NC, OK**
    - **Being Considered:** ***DC,MA, NY, PA, RI, SC, TN***

as of May 2010

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State Initiatives to Help Families

- **Unemployment Compensation**
  - **38 states offer to military spouses**
  - **Ohio and Tennessee are considering**
  - **DC passed in May 2010**
  - **DoD Regional Liaison efforts; 10 Key Issues for Military Families**
    - **www.usa4militaryfamilies.org**

Initiatives to Help Families

- **Post 9-11 GI Bill Proposed Enhancements (some)**
  - **Inclusion of Non-Degree Courses**
  - **Books Stipend for AD/AD Spouse**
  - **Housing Allowance for Exclusive Distance Learning**
  - **Title 32 State Time to Count**
- **Post 9-11 GI Bill Transferability**
  - **Service member can change or revoke transfer but CAN'T ADD anyone after leaving service**
  - **Recommend transfer at least one month to each FM**

Contact Information

- **Military Officers Association of America (MOAA)**

  www.moaa.org

- **National Military Family Association**

  www.MilitaryFamily.org

  www.facebook.com/militaryfamily